GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:208
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2006
TEACHING OF HINDI ABROAD
Chavda Shri Harisinh Pratapsinh;Yadav Shri Giridhari

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons taught Hindi by the Indian missions abroad during each of the last three years;

(b) the efforts being made by the government to promote use of Hindi abroad; and

(c) the progress made in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a), (b) & (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A), (B) & (C) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 208 REGARDING `TEACHING OF HINDI ABROAD` TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.12.2006.

(a) The information is being collected.

(b&c) Ministry of External Affairs has deployed extensive efforts to promote use of Hindi abroad. Books on Hindi literature and books in Hindi on art, culture, history, children story books, English-Hindi and Hindi-English dictionaries, Hindi teaching aid material including CDs, cassettes etc. are sent to Indian Missions abroad regularly for distributing to local universities, schools, educational institutions and voluntary organizations engaged in teaching of Hindi. Assistance is also provided to meet specific requirements of educational institutions in different countries through our Missions abroad. This includes development of Hindi text books as per local requirement, assistance for publication of Hindi and local language dictionaries.

Another important step taken by the Ministry to promote Hindi abroad is through organization of Regional Hindi Conferences in different countries. Such conferences were held in Sydney (Australia) in February 2006, in Abu Dhabi (UAE) in February 2006 and in Tokyo (Japan) in July 2006. The objective of these conferences is to focus on Hindi-teaching related issues of the region concerned.

The Ministry is also extending support to Hindi magazines published abroad and various Hindi related activities undertaken by local organizations there. Recently the Ministry has decided to encourage Hindi writers abroad by extending financial support to them.

In addition, the Ministry coordinates the enrolment of foreign students coming to pursue courses in Hindi on scholarship at Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Agra. It also coordinates enrolment of students, both foreign and Indian, living abroad who wish to pursue correspondence courses conducted by the Central Hindi Directorate.

The above efforts have resulted in an increased interest in Hindi both amongst foreigners and people of Indian origin living abroad.